

November Newsletter



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

November 2018

La Paz at all Angles - Pelagic to Macro

by Joe Holden

Want a break from the usual Caribbean critters, but don't want to fly 18 hours to see something new? How about La Paz, Mexico on the Sea of Cortez - a/k/a Gulf of California? Situated between Mexico and the Baja Peninsula of California, this UNESCO World Heritage site boasts some of the greatest aquatic diversity on Earth with over 39% of the total number of marine species, including a third of the world's cetacean (whale) species. Here you'll have the opportunity to see species of parrotfish, angelfish, butterflyfish, and eels unique to the Eastern Pacific. Depending upon the season, you can also see various species of whales, whale sharks, rays, dolphins, and of course, the sea lions. It's an easy 2-1/2 hour flight to Cabo San Lucas (hey, even Southwest flies there!), then an hour drive north to La Paz, the capital of Baja California Sur. Fall is considered the ideal time to dive, especially around October. The air and the water are still very warm (water temp of 83!) and it is a prime time to visit the sea lions.



Whether you are a fan of wide angle or macro, there is something for everyone. From our shore-based hotel, La Concha Beach Resort, our dive masters took us to wrecks - the Salvatierra, a cargo ferry that sank when it struck a rock; Fang Ming, a Chinese vessel confiscated by the Mexican government and subsequently sunk to from a reef; and the C59, a US WWII minesweeper sold to the Mexican Navy in '62 and later sunk as a reef in '04. They took us to El Bajo, home to hundreds of schooling hammerheads that travel clockwise around the sea mount and with a little luck (which we didn't have) come up to meet the divers. Even if you don't see the hammerheads, don't forget to look down as you pass over the sea mount. You can't miss the aggregation of 50+ Panamic Green Morays that inhabit the top of the sea mount! And then there's the main event - sea lions! Los Islotes is a pair of rocky islets that are home to a colony of 200 California Brown Sea Lions. And yes, they are as adorable as you'd think! October is a prime month to visit the colony as the most of the males (which can be rather territorial) have left for the season, leaving only mothers and their pups. Without the aggressive males around, the mothers were quite relaxed about allowing the youngsters to play with the divers. We anchor outside the islets and make our way over to the rocks where adults sun themselves on the rocks and the pups play in the shallows around the island. Don't be surprised if one or two escort you in, entertained by their reflection in your dome port. We chose to forgo some of the other dive options around La Paz to make multiple trips to play with the sea lions.



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La Paz, continued . . .

And don't think that just because your dive day is over that your animal encounters are over. Remember that the Sea of Cortez plays host to a number of whale species. After a long day of sea lioning, we spotted whale spouts and jumped at the chance to grab a snorkel and slip into the water. As the large shape came into view, it was not the common humpback we expected to see, but rather a juvenile sperm whale! Another day, we made a slight detour to the cove just around the corner from the hotel to snorkel with whale sharks feeding on plankton.



After a long day of diving, you could find us at the hotel's Cortez Club bar, trading dive stories and watching the beautiful sunsets off the pier before heading into town for dinner. You can stroll along the Melacon, La Paz's waterfront promenade, where you'll find an abundance of great restaurants on the inland side, and an abundance of bronze statues scattered about on the water side.

And after a great week of nice weather and amazing diving, remember that you only have a short, direct flight home. So next time you're itching for a change of (fish) scenery but don't want to travel to the other side of the world, head to La Paz!

President's Corner

Remember, remember the 5th of November. This is the time of the year when we elect our officers and choose a member that we wish to thank. Be sure to send me an email (lornas.lens@outlook.com) or give any of the BOD members a handwritten note on November 5th, the first Monday of November. Then, on the first Monday of December, December 3rd, we will kick off the holiday festivities with our HUPS Christmas Party.

Remember, remember the 7th of January is your chance to **participate** in the monthly presentation. While you are out diving go ahead and grab a quick video clip of some fishy action and bring it to the January meeting on Jan. 7 (the first Monday in January.) But if you are not diving, get out there and do something **entertaining** in the Houston area to hone your photography skills. You can even go take some photos in your front yard - I have set up a shepherds hook to hang my camera on in order to practice with my camera in the underwater housing. (I'm trying to catch a shot of a humming bird.)

There will be 4 **educational** opportunities throughout the year in 2019.

Next year the HUPS Workshops will focus on getting Back to the Basics. The topics will cover Go Pros, storage, backups, workflows and how to use your camera.

Remember, remember . . .

“Underwater photos through Education, Participation and Entertainment”

I sincerely believe that our photography brings the oceans to life for the public. And through our website and social media our work is being shared more widely than ever before.

See you at JAX's (6510 Rice Ave., Bellaire) after the meeting.

---Lorna Carpenter

Announcements

HUPS Member of the Year

In 1991 the Executive Committee established the Member of the Year Award (MOTY) to recognize those HUPS members who tirelessly work to provide services and utility to HUPS' members. Nomination for this award must be in writing including emails and must be sent to the President before the November General Meeting. Please forward your nominations to lornas.lens@outlook.com to allow us to vote on your choice of nominees. The details pertaining to the award and the nominating process are outlined in Attachment 1- Member of the Year Award - of the HUPS By-Laws found on the HUPS Website.



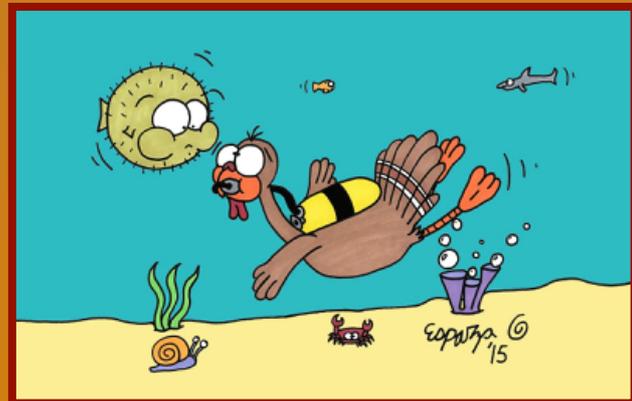
December Creative

Put your creative thinking caps on now and get a head start on submitting a creative photo for December's meeting. Even if you haven't been submitting throughout the year, give it shot. Anything is allowed so long as you took the photo and do the post processing. The more we have the more we are entertained during our meal as they are usually quite comical or interesting!

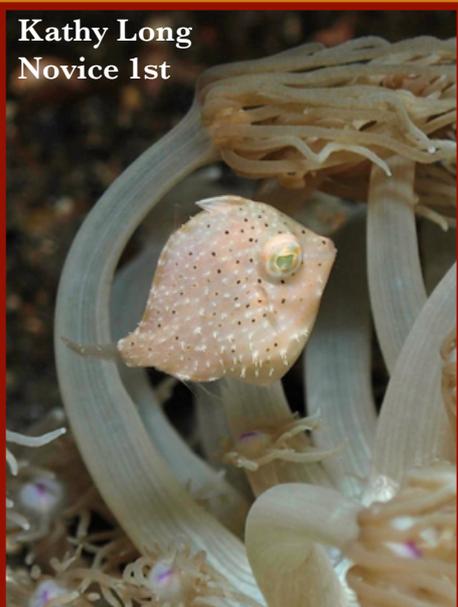


TGCC Banquet

The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, January 26, 2019. It will be held at Bayland Community Center from 11am - 2pm. Please consider attending so HUPS has good representation.



Kathy Long
Novice 1st



January Meeting - Audience Participation

The January meeting is amateur night. Anything Goes video from any one and every one. Bring a video clip to show the group: 3 sec - 3 minutes, it doesn't matter. Since many of our members are now diving with a Go Pro or a camera with video capabilities, we want to see those clips! You probably have some strange critter behavior or fun diver shots - bring 'em to the meeting and we will throw it up on the big screen. No formal programs allowed, just random clips and short stories please. Bring as many as you want and if it is too many we will fast forward to the next batch. Load them on a thumb drive and format as mp4 video.

2018 POTY Standings thru October

Novice

1st	John VanAtta	708
2nd	Betsy Beasley	618
3rd	Kathy Long	460
4th	Steven Anderson	316
5th	Lorna Carpenter	291
6th	Caffery Joseph	170

Intermediate

1st tie	Bess Bright	682
1st tie	Joe Holden	682
3rd	Russell Ramsey	598

Advance

1st	Dennis Deavenport	779
2nd	Craig Beasley	727
3rd	Beata Lerman	269

Video

1st	Craig Beasley	36
2nd	Betsy Beasley	33
3rd	Tom Collier	27



Kathy Long
Novice 1st



Craig Beasley
Advanced 2nd



Betsy Beasley
Novice 3rd



Joe Holden
Intermediate 1st



Dennis Deavenport
Advanced 3rd



Bess Bright
Intermediate 2nd

2018 Presentation and Contest Topics

	Presentation	Presenter	Contest Topic
November 5	La Paz From All Angles	Bess Bright & Joe Holden	Nudibranchs & worms
December 3	Best of HUPS	Lance Glowacki	Creative

Month	Themes	Description
Nov	Nudibranchs & Worms	Again, this is pretty specific but you may need to check your critter ID book if you're not sure.
Dec	Best of HUPS	NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED, and CREATIVE contests: First place winners from each month's Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced categories will be entered automatically for judging. The Creative category lets you enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing.



Joe Holden
Intermediate 1st

Underwater Pumpkin Carving

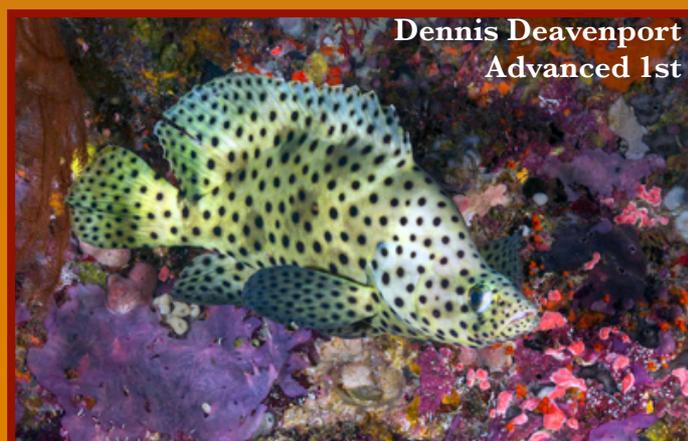
Don't miss the Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest and Campout at Blue Lagoon on Saturday, October 27, starting at 1pm. Activities include diving, camping, swimming, fun around the campfire, and of course UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING! Bring your own pumpkin, carving tools, decorative ideas, your camping and dive gear, and food/drinks. For more information, [RSVP here](#)

2019 Presentation Topics

	Presentation	Presenter
January	Short Film Clips – Audience Participation	Tom Collier
February	Regulator Use, Care, & Maintenance	Dave Bullard
March	Destination Egypt	OTA Dive Shop
April	Houston Police Department Dive and Rescue Unit	Sgt. Edward Godwin, HPD Dive Team
May	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
June	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
July	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
August	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
September	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
October	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
November	To be determined	STILL NEEDED
December	Best of HUPS	Martin Daniels

2019 REEF Field Trip Schedule

REEF has announced their 2019 Field Survey Trip Schedule. They have 14 trips planned, spanning all months of the year. Destinations span all regions of the globe such as Maldives, BVI, Oman, Cozumel, Alaska, Bonaire, Roatan, Solomon Islands and more. If you haven't joined one before, perhaps this is your year to participate in a meaningful citizen science dive trip. To find out more or to book your space, contact them at attrips@REEF.org



Dennis Deavenport
Advanced 1st

The **Houston Underwater Photographic Society** meets at the Bayland Community Center from 7pm - 9pm, the first Monday of each month (except for Monday holidays)
6400 Bissonnet (near Hillcroft), Houston, TX 77074
Visitors are always welcome!



2018 HUPS Officers

President:

Lorna Carpenter

Vice President:

Beata Lerman

asst: Dennis Deavenport

Secretary:

Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:

Debbie Mensay

Membership/Newsletter:

Monica Losey

Photo Contest

Coordinator:

Lance Glowacki
asst: Martin Daniels

Video Contest/Workshop

Coordinator:

Tom Collier

TGCC Reps:

Alicia Grimes
Frank Burek
Debbie Mensay
Mark Leiserwitz

WebMaster:

Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator:

Jim Mensay

Historian:

Frank Burek

Special Events:

Mary Daniels

Moody Gardens

Coordinator:

Bess Bright

Merchandising

Coordinator:

Sandy Bryan

HUPS on the Internet



www.hups.org



www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG



Find us on:

facebook.

www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2018 HUPS Board of Directors

Mary Daniels

Mike Greuter

Joe Haws

Bess Bright

Monica Losey

Jim Mensay

Frank Burek

Henry Ragland

Russell Ramsey

Martin Daniels

Tom Collier

Craig Beasley

Lance Glowacki

Dennis Deavenport

Joe Holden

